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Man Indicted for Defrauding Disabled Senior out of \$36,000

Wilmington – A Washington resident with Power of Attorney over a disabled Delaware senior was indicted yesterday on six felony charges, including the exploitation of an infirm adult and theft from a victim over 62 years of age, Attorney General Beau Biden announced. A grand jury charged Alfred E. Harmon, Jr., 69, of Spanaway, Washington with defrauding an 89-year-old relative out of \$36,000.

“When a particularly vulnerable individual is taken advantage of for personal gain, it is not only wrong, it is illegal,” said Attorney General Biden. “We are here to protect seniors, and will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute cases of financial fraud perpetrated against those who cannot defend themselves.”

An investigation begun in March 2010 by the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MCFU) revealed that Harmon gained Power of Attorney over the victim in June 2009. The victim, who suffers from a psychiatric disorder, dementia, and other mental and physical disabilities, signed the Power of Attorney while under evaluation at a psychiatric facility. Harmon was granted access to the victim’s funds for the purpose of paying expenses related to her estate. The investigation uncovered three withdrawals from the victim’s bank accounts totaling \$36,000 in July 2009, allegedly made by Harmon. When confronted with the evidence by an MCFU Investigator in May 2010, Harmon admitted to making two of the withdrawals totaling \$31,000, and conceded that he’d used that money for personal reasons that were of no benefit to the victim.

An arrest warrant for Harmon was obtained in July 2010, and the defendant, a resident of Washington state, was advised to return to Delaware to address the charges. Harmon failed to do so, and was ultimately arrested when stopped for a traffic violation in Idaho in July of this year. Waiving extradition, he was arrested in Delaware on August 10.

Yesterday, after the Attorney General’s Office presented its case to the grand jury, Harmon was indicted on three counts of exploiting an infirm adult, as well as three counts of theft from a victim over 62 years of age. He is currently being held at Howard R. Young Correctional Institution, in lieu of a \$15,000 cash bond.

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